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What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing search results obtained in response to a user query, the method comprising:

providing document pointers returned by a search engine to

identify a source from which documents are available;

5 generating at least two visual abstracts for one of said documents,

each of said visual abstracts being of a different size; and

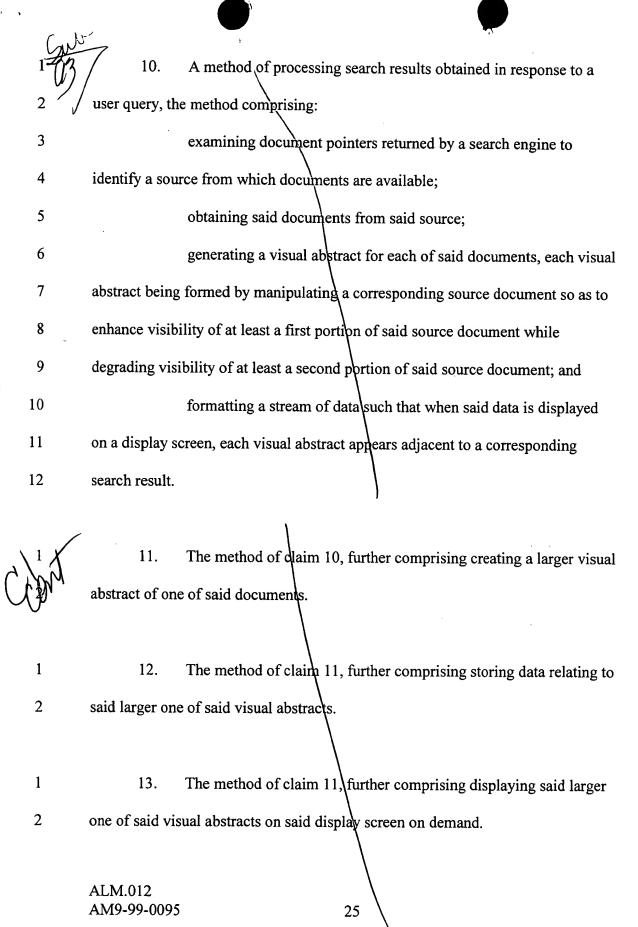
formatting a stream of data such that when said data is displayed on a display screen regarding said one of said documents, a smaller one of said visual abstracts appears adjacent to a corresponding search result.

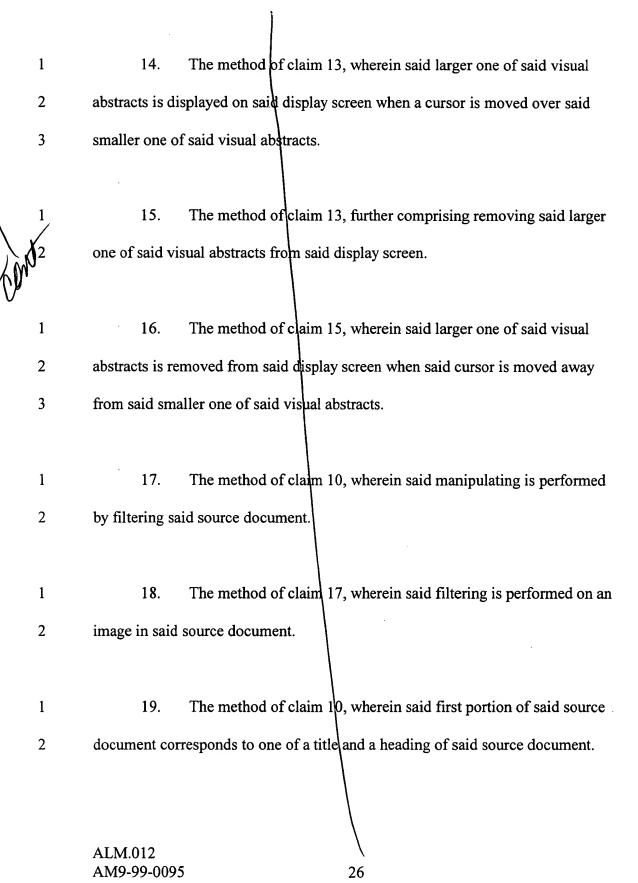
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said visual abstract is generated by manipulating said document so as to enhance said visibility of at least a portion of said document while degrading visibility of at least another portion of said document.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said manipulating is performed by filtering said document.

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1	4. The method of claim 3, wherein said filtering is performed on an
2	image in said document.
1	5. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a larger one
2	of said visual abstracts on said display screen when requested by said user.
1	6. The method of claim 5, further comprising storing data relating to
2	said larger one of said visual abstracts
1	7. The method of claim 5, wherein said larger one of said visual
2	abstracts is displayed on said display screen when a cursor is moved over said
3	smaller one of said visual abstracts.
1	8. The method of claim 7, further comprising removing said larger
2	one of said visual abstracts from said display screen.
1	9. The method of claim 8, wherein said larger one of said visual
2	abstracts is removed from said display screen when said cursor is moved away
3	from said smaller one of said visual abstracts.





1	20.	The method of claim 19, wherein said one of said title and said
2	heading is en	larged as compared with said second portion of said source
3 100	document.	
1	21.	The method of claim 10, wherein said second portion of said
2	source docum	nent corresponds to a body of text of said source document.
Silv.	22.	A method of searching for a document, said method comprising:
2		supplying a search request;
3 V	^	providing abstracts of documents on a screen display that
4	correspond to	o said search request, said abstracts including a written summary and
5	a first visual	abstract of each of said documents;
6		creating a second visual abstract of one of said documents, wherein
7	said second v	visual abstract is larger than said first visual abstract; and
8		displaying said second visual abstract when requested by a user.
1	23.	The method of claim 22, wherein said visual abstract is created by
2	manipulating	g a source document so as to enhance visibility of at least a first
3	portion of sa	id source document.

	24.	The method of claim 23, wherein said first portion corresponds to
	one of a title a	and a heading of said document.
	25.	The method of claim 22, wherein said second visual abstract is
	displayed on s	aid display screen when said user moves a pointing device over a
	corresponding	one of said first visual abstracts.
	26.	The method of claim 25, further comprising removing said second
	visual abstract	from said display screen when said user moves said pointing
	device away fr	com said corresponding one of said first visual abstracts.
	27.	The method of claim 22, further comprising storing data relating to
	said second vis	sual abstract in a cache database.
	28.	The method of claim 27, further comprising deleting said data
	relating to said	second visual abstract in said cache database after a predetermined
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		25. displayed on s corresponding 26. visual abstract device away fr 27. said second vis

29. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by said machine to perform

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method steps for processing search results obtained in response to a user query, 3 4 said method comprising: 5 supplying a search request; providing abstracts of documents on a screen display that correspond to said search request, said abstracts including a written summary and 8 a first visual abstract of said documents: 9 creating a second visual abstract of one of said documents, wherein said second visual abstract is larger than said first visual abstract; and displaying said second visual abstract when requested by a user. 30. A computer system for searthing for a document, said system comprising: 3 a client system and a server system, said client system supplying a search request to said server system, said server system providing abstracts of 5 documents to said client system, said abstracts corresponding to said search request, said client system displaying said abstracts on a screen display, said 6 7 abstracts including a written abstract and a first visual abstract of each of said documents, said server system creating a second visual\abstract of one of said 8 documents, said second visual abstract being larger than said first visual abstract 9 when displayed on said screen display, said client system displaying said second 10 11 visual abstract when requested by a user.



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- 31. The system of claim 30, wherein said visual abstract is created by manipulating a source document so as to enhance visibility of at least a first portion of said source document.
- 32. The system of claim 30, wherein said second visual abstract is displayed on said screen display when said user moves a pointing device over said first visual abstract.
 - 33. The system of claim 32, wherein said second visual abstract is removed from said screen display when said user moves said pointing device away from said first visual abstract of said document.